



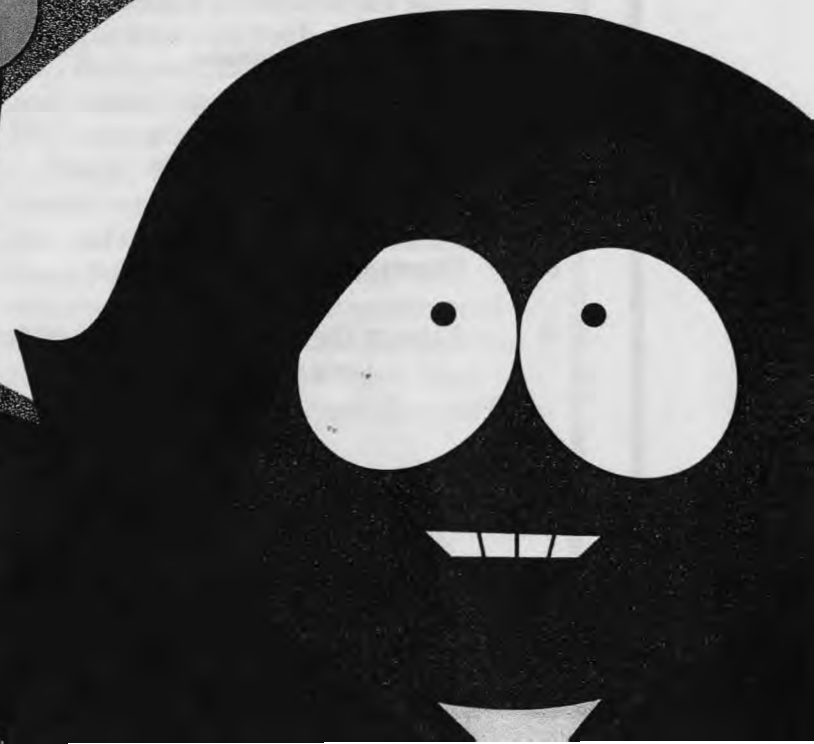
FEMMES D'ESPRIT

HONORS PROGRAM MAGAZINE

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L. M. H.
archives



EDITOR'S LETTER

Kathryn Tyranski

Kathryn is a junior who has three majors—English, Communication Arts, and Women's Studies

I can't believe it's already time for me to sit down and write another end-of-the-year letter! Another year has been successfully completed in the Honors Program at The College of New Rochelle. And it's been quite a busy and accomplished year! There is much to be proud of!

With this time of the year comes many good-byes. This issue of *Femmes* is all about endings. The seniors are graduating...Congratulations! The Class of 2005 has had many Honors experiences and will wish you a final farewell in this issue of *Femmes*. Remember, seniors...don't forget to come and visit those of us you leave behind! We'll still be here, working hard. Plus...the pages of *Femmes* are always open to your contributions. In short—keep in touch! May you have all the luck of the world in your futures...whatever they may be, but we all know that they will be great.

To those of you who are staying behind...don't forget that the pages of *Femmes* are open to you too! You can write about your experiences in Honors classes, events, and whatever else comes to mind. We've worked hard this year to create constant columns in *Femmes*, such as the articles about Honors trips, as well as features entitled "A Closer Look" for your participation. So, if there's something that interests you...write about it! *Femmes* is always looking for new and exciting material.

As we are moving into a new year and I will be returning next fall as a senior, I won't be returning as Editor-in-Chief of *Femmes*. This is the eleventh and final issue I will be editing. I am leaving our magazine in the capable hands of Jeanene James, who is currently a member of the freshmen class. I've truly enjoyed editing *Femmes*

d'Esprit since the spring of my freshmen year. I've loved seeing the evolution of *Femmes* and I look forward to all that Jeanene, as well as her new editorial board, has to offer. You will be wonderful, Jeanene! Thank you for taking on the future of *Femmes*.

In editing this magazine, there have been many late nights (like tonight—12:03 a.m.) full of coffee and editors running through copy and editing photos and all that is entailed in producing a publication. There is so much involved! It isn't always easy being an editor, but it is certainly rewarding to be able to recruit the talented writers that contribute to each new issue.

I always have to remind myself that the end of one year only makes room for the beginning of the next. I know the same applies for the future of *Femmes*. The magazine will continue to evolve and become better every time it passes through the presses at the CNR Print Shop. So, with all of this in mind, I thank everyone who has contributed to *Femmes* in any way, shape, or form since I've been editor. Your help, dedication, and contributions have been astounding and greatly appreciated. Don't stop next year!

Finally, to all of the dedicated readers of *Femmes*—enjoy summer vacation! Relax, rest, and read *Frankenstein*...and the new Harry Potter book (I can't wait)! But, while you wait to start your summer reading, begin with this issue and enjoy all that *Femmes* has to offer. I know I have these last five semesters and I thank all of you for that.

Sincerely,
Kathryn M. Tyranski

HONORS MATTERS: ANOTHER FOND FAREWELL

Dr. Amy Bass

Dr. Bass is Director of the Honors Program and has been at CNR since Fall 2003.

*How happy is the blameless vestal's lot!
The world forgetting, by the world forgot.
Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind!
Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd.*
- Alexander Pope, "Eloisa to Abelard," 1717

*As Abelard said to Eloise,
"Don't forget to drop a line to me, please."
- Cold Porter, "Just One of those Things,"
1935*

*Joel: "I can't remember anything without you."
Clementine: "That's sweet, but try."
- Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, 2004*

I often tell students that they should be able to *feel* graduation. It is one of the great symbols of accomplishment in any one individual's life, and yet it is a time of pushing and pulling, joy and anxiety, work and leisure. Graduation, in a way, makes no sense whatsoever. You aren't allowed to cruise, because some of your toughest assignments make their way into your life in your senior year. You have accumulated too much knowledge to not do well, and yet the weather gets warmer and it seems

simply *criminal* that you are in the library/ computer lab/ dorm room. You want to consider the offerings of the professional world while at the same time continue your studies at the

graduate level. You dream of your own apartment, but at the same time desire to throw caution to the wind, load up someone's car, and head out on a Hollywood-envisioned road trip (I highly recommend this last one). As for graduation day itself? It's one of the ultimate days of conflict between family and friends – lunch with parents and siblings or that last hour with roommates? Are you still your parents' daughter, or are you your roommate's best friend? And doesn't your significant other know that this is *your* moment?

And then you leave, and you have no idea what to do with the four years you have just spent learning, laughing, loving, and freaking out in the middle of the night over that paper that you just didn't have time to get to. How do you cope? What do you do?

You remember. Not just graduation, but all of it – classes, professors, friends, the food, the plays, the field trips, the Sunday afternoons of hanging around and doing absolutely nothing but talking about doing something (which always sort of felt like accomplishing something, right?) When I graduated from college, I made the trip from Maine back home to Massachusetts sitting in the back of my parents' car, surrounded by the posters and books and CDs that meant so much to me for the past four years (I would say clothes, too, but it turns out I left a full drawer in my dorm room, never to be seen again, so the whole clothes thing is still sort of touchy with me and my mom). We stopped on the Massachusetts turnpike to grab a quick bite at Burger King, an attempt to break up the familiar five hour drive. In my post-graduation stupor, I left my handbag



Above: Dr. Amy Bass

Photo: E. Kluge

A CLOSER LOOK: NE-NCHC IN ATLANTIC CITY

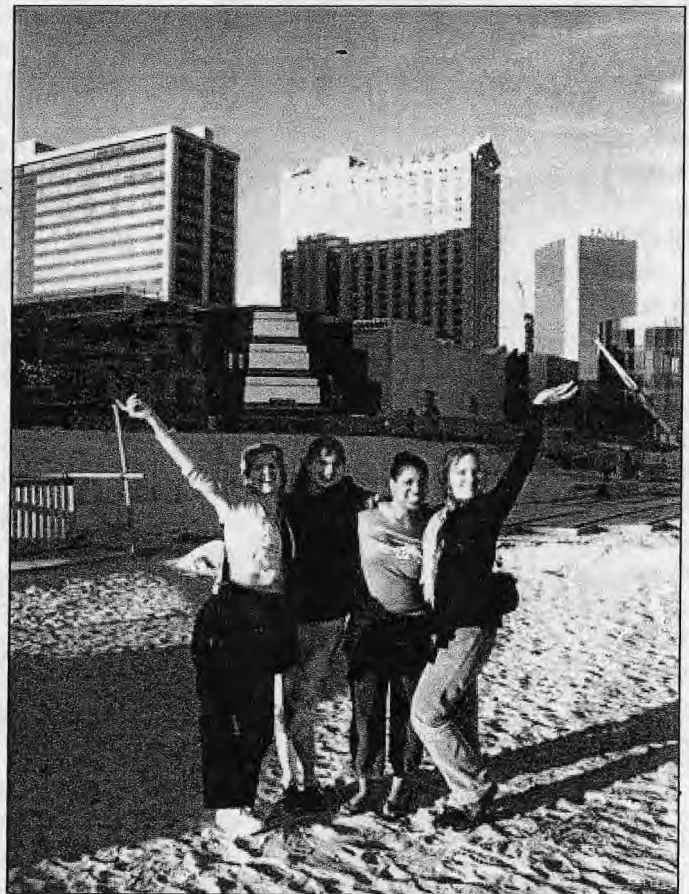
On April 11, seven honors students and Dr. Bass traveled to Atlantic City to the 2005 Northeast Regional National Collegiate Honors Council's (NE-NCHC) annual conference. This year's conference, entitled "Landscapes of Change," focused on southern New Jersey's Pine Barrens region and included "Place as Text" field trips, student panels, and poster presentations on the interplay between sand dunes, historic villages, resorts, and casinos, as well as a variety of student research projects. Four honors students – Bekki Mui '07, Christina Simpson, '07, Megan Skrip '07, and Betsy Skrip '06 – presented their research at the conference's annual poster session. Seniors Samantha Young and Emily Williams served as assistant chaperones (and able drivers!) for the trip, while freshman Shonda Gaylord got to see what honors conferences are all about.

PRESENTERS & TOPICS

Bekki Mui and Christina Simpson:
"Internet Collaboration and the Art of Poetry"

Betsy Skrip:
"Nature Portrayed Through the
Evolution of Art"

Megan Skrip:
"Worms in the Woods: The Effects of Exotic
Earthworms on Forest Leaf Litter and
Its Inhabitants"



Above: Elizabeth Skrip, Megan Skrip, Shonda Gaylord, and Emily Williams in Atlantic City.

Photo: A. Bass

The following pages contain reflections from those students that attended the conference. Read on....

will be memorable, not for the speeches and the panel discussions and the poster boards, but for those moments taken for granted, the conversations with students (not students, rather, but college kids like myself), and the lessons learned from the dusty trail of the Atlantic City boardwalk. My first sight of Jersey's tarnished diamond, Atlantic City, was pointed out to



Right: Bekki Mui and Christina Simpson presenting at the Poster Session.

Photo: A. Bass

me by Dr. Bass through our hotel window. She told us to look for the sparkling red tower through the thick fog and from there Trump Tower should not be so hard to spot. I

squinted and I saw the red tower, but as for the rest of it, no such luck.

An important aspect of the honors conference, or at least what I found most interesting about this experience, was the interaction that happened outside of the stuffy conference rooms. Dr. Bass told us that during a faculty business meeting, other professors expressed disappointment that no one was socializing from the different schools. As this discussion took place, Dr. Bass says she looked out the window to see Bekki talking to someone we had met the night before. And, of course, she laughed to herself about what the other faculty were discussing. It is rather comical to think about what "socialization" *should* be. For instance, there was an ice cream social after one dinner. It reminded

me of a basement birthday party, complete with chaperones and a DJ who played some pretty outdated music.

For "Place as Text," some of us went to several historical sites, and then concluded with a group discussion. The trip to Batso Village and Smithville Historical center was quite interesting. It was all completely visual, letting the aesthetic of the farm-houses and artifacts speak of a history either left to stand on its own (like the old mills of Batso) or a history served to us purely for profit (like the oldies gift shop of Smithville). I enjoyed smelling the wetness of wood through the mist of the day and playing with coin games rarely found in modern arcades. I was learning while I was having fun. Unlike Batso and Smithville, Atlantic City has no historical retrospection; it only reflects the seedy nature of America's fluid morality. But I enjoyed Atlantic City the most. The large hotels (The Sands, for example) were like veins running only through the central parts of the city, connected by the infamous boardwalk. They stood so tall and so bright, as if to distract tourists from the scantily dressed prostitutes and drug dealers that claim their offices right outside of the fruitful casinos. At the end of the boardwalk I saw the large, brightly-colored ferris wheel slowly spinning as if it was all a dream. This is what Atlantic City reminds me of: a large carnival of bright lights and beautifully fake things. In the end, what is one left with?

Betsy Skrip

After visiting New Jersey, I can certainly understand why it might be considered a "Landscape of Change" -- the theme of this year's conference--or at least a landscape of great variation. As part of the conference's "Place as Text" explorations, Dr. Bass, Emily Williams, and I toured Cape May, a

A PROFESSOR'S PERSPECTIVE: SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Amy Bass

Dr. Bass taught this year's Senior Symposium and restructured the syllabus to its current status.

I promised myself that I would wait a year until I made any significant changes in the Honors Program. And I did. Or almost. Six months, anyway.

It is hard to fix something that is not broken. And the Honors Program at CNR was certainly not broken when I arrived. But I had an idea, and I wanted to make it fit.

The summer before I arrived at CNR, I was told that I needed to pick a book to have the incoming freshmen class read over the summer, and assign a paper for them to have ready for the first day of Honors Critical Research Essay. I picked *Coming of Age in Mississippi* by Anne Moody. However, I didn't like the idea of "summer work" – of inserting an assignment into the world of students I had not yet met. I didn't like them reading it on their own, without each other, and then walking into their very first college course and engaging in that activity that makes us all so vulnerable: sharing ideas in a group setting. Should students read during the summer? Absolutely. Should I tell them what to read? I don't think so.

But I liked the idea of a "common read" – a book that the students could identify their class with, a book that represented that first semester of college for them. "What if we moved it to INS 101?" I asked Dr. Smart last summer. "Right on," he enthusiastically replied. (And now you know that I am repeating this verbatim, because you *know* that is exactly what he said). So we went to a bookstore and browsed and settled on *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold, a book that had grabbed America's attention with its themes of youth, violence, grief,

and the construction of a personal heaven. Yes, we assigned a best-seller. And I liked that – I liked to think of CNR students having conversations about books that the rest of the country was reading, rather than wading through the jargon-filled monographs so often forced upon them.

With the so-called common read chosen for the Honors class of 2008, what about the class of 2009? How was this decision going to be made year after year? And it was then that my habit of reading the web pages of other honors programs proved worthwhile. At the University of Maine, the Honors College boasts over six hundred students and has its own gigantic building. When I first came to CNR, I read about its program, as I read about all of the other programs in the United States. On its website, there is a link called "traditions." When I clicked it, I found the solution to my new dilemma of how to choose the freshmen's "common read."

At the University of Maine, what is called "The Honors Read" is chosen in a seminar entitled "The Honors Read Tutorial." The class spends a semester analyzing books, considering what would work, and then choosing one for the freshmen and writing a letter to them explaining

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Above: Members of the Senior Symposium Class.

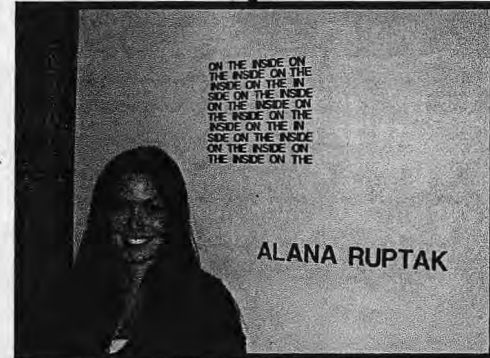
Photo: A. Bass

SENIOR MEMORIES

Alana Ruptak

How are these words, small letters upon this page, to stand as translator for my experiences? This task poses as problematic, for while this presents an opportunity to reflect it also presents the necessity to say goodbye.

I was asked to write a simple 5 to 10 sentence paragraph summarizing my favorite experience of being in the Honors Program, as well as discussing my future plans. And to be honest, I cannot think of my “favorite experience.” Of course there are moments that will permanently be in memory, but a favorite? It would be cumbersome and daunting to both my fingers and your eyes to describe the oh-so-many memorable moments shared with my classmates and professors. I will abstain from such writing, as well as telling my undecided favorite experience. (Toss up between New Orleans and the pizza party at Dr. Ong’s!)




I will (becoming overly sentimental, hopefully not sounding mawkish but genuine) extend gratitude and a million "Thank You's" to the women I have studied with and the astounding faculty who have guided and inspired us over these four years. Perhaps they are why I can't think of a favorite experience, because they both individually and collectively represent in my mind the epitome of my honors as well as my overall college experiences. They are the substance of my memories and for that I will forever be thankful...thank you, thank you, thank you...

As for future plans, I travel now to Pratt to pursue a MPS in art therapy. My goal is to then become a practicing art therapist with at-need-adult populations in NYC. Or I may just run away to Florence to eat gelato. It is hard to decide between food and a degree.

So with this, my last sentence to appear in *Femmes*, I breathe, say thank you, and say goodbye.

Judith Jeremie



It's hard to believe that I'm in my last stages not only at The College of New Rochelle but also in the Honor's Program. I joined the program in the second semester of my first year. The memories I hold most dear of the Program are all tied to my first honor's conference. I remember the ride to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with Laura Wiltshire and Jennifer Pinheiro, but most of all I remember bonding with my fellow classmates during our Civil War reenactments and in our preparation for our roundtable presentation. That actually sums up my experience in this program: bonding. I think that because of the continuous exposure to my honor's classmates, I have made some of the closest bonds at the college.

EMILY...CONTINUED

...Continued from previous page

majors more and more....

We were not always certain what exactly was in store...

Clunkety clunkety... a bump in our path

The honors program in transition

Searching for a new director... Who would it be?

In came the New Wave,

What a broad was she!

Dr. Amy Bass... vivacious and brilliant ...

Might I say....

Quite the catch!

She certainly has proven to be

A splendid match!

Off to New Orleans, zydeco step step...

Gumbo mumbo jumbo...Scrumptious beignets

Spooky ghost walks and Voo-Doo

What have we here?

A national honors conference... I kid you not!

Stay aboard the Honors ship and you'll do more than a mere trot!

Swirling and swirling... one experience after the next...

The Honors Program reinforcing our strengths

And helping us to weave our own individual texts

Some in writing... some in science... some in art

We each contributed our part

Giggling along the way, crying a bit too...

Glad for the learning that we shared together

Both in bright and stormy weather...

And so the time has come, to go our separate ways

But the Honors Program will never be far as its impact follows us into

Wherever we go and whatever we may do...

I wish you all the best and with this I say Adieu!

As of the current moment I have no set plan, yet many aspirations bubble in my mind and I have faith will materialize in the near and far future. Undoubtedly travel, and my continuing pursuit of art and language will be essentials in the next place I go. I am currently looking to live abroad for about a year while participating in a service program and conducting research and working on an extensive art project. Graduate school is certainly in my plans as well, in a year to two years' time. I will keep the Honors Program posted! Au revoir!

ALSO GRADUATING

Amy
Gutierrez



Amy
Perry



A NIGHT ON THE TOWN: HONORS SEES SPAMALOT

Judith Jeremie

Judith is a graduating senior who will be receiving degrees in History and French.

SPAMALOT



Above: A Spamalot Poster

Photo: <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/spamalot.jpg>

A longtime fan of Monty Python, I was quite excited when I heard that *Spamalot* was the final choice for the Senior Symposium NYC Experience. After ensuring that I had a cover for work that day, I thought I was prepared to just go and relax. I was not, however, prepared for the forces of nature that day. It was indeed a dark and stormy night. The drive down to the city was slow due to the slick roads. Once my carmates and I arrived, utterly relieved as we were, we had to fight past the gusts of wind whose sole purpose seemed to push us away from the theatre.

We braved through and boy was I happy to see Dr. Bass and get my ticket. Once warm and seated, my neighbor Nisha Feliz and I glanced around looking for the rest of our classmates. It was great to see so many familiar faces, since our classmates ranged from first-years to seniors.

My seat was also amazing. I was able to see everything that went on onstage as well as the audience's reactions.

Based on the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the musical gives an amusing and unforgettable portrayal of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they search for the Holy Grail. The cast made the show. Tim Curry as King Arthur was fabulous but his knights and the Lady of the Lake were amazing as well: David Hyde Pierce (Sir Robin), Hank Azaria (Sir Lancelot), Michael McGrath (Patsy), Steve Rosen (Sir Bedevere), and Sara Ramirez (The Lady of the Lake).

Overall, a brilliant performance with several memorable scenes, such as the flying cow and the rabid man-eating rabbit. I even got myself a souvenir: my own flying cow wearing a *Spamalot* tee.

ANOTHER TAKE: SPAMALOT

Nisha Feliz

Spamalot was a smashing hit with the group the night of March 8, 2005. It was an interesting night of comedy and parody of Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The trip was sponsored by the Honors Program for Honors students but most especially the seniors. The main plot of the musical is to tell the story of how King Arthur established his kingdom of Camelot. He goes throughout his new kingdom

gathering brave knights to serve him and his kingdom with the ideals of Justice, Peace and Chivalry. Of course, to truly establish your fame, you must defeat the enemy, which, in this case, were the French. Qu'est-ce que c'est? What? That's the question to ask when you go see *Spamalot*. It has lots of laughs and a special surprise for a lucky seat at the theatre. *Spamalot* is a must see. Please go and enjoy!!!

Nisha is a junior Business and French major who assisted in coordinating Honors Conference Day.



Left to Right: Dr. Faith Kostel-Hughes stands with Tung Nguyen '07 and Elizabeth Skrip '06; Lacy-Ann Landell '06 talks with Dr. Michael Quinn; Omega Dale '07 poses with her mentor, Christina De Gennaro.

Photos: A. Bass

Jennifer Davidson—"The Sexuality of Advertising: Past and Present" (Mentor - Dr. Roxanne Zimmer)

Shirley DelValle—"Chasing the Unattainable" (Mentor - Rebecca LaFleur)

Nisha Feliz—"Identity and the Internet in the 21st Century" (Mentor - Linda LoPresti)

Lacy-Ann Landell—"Disposable People" (Mentor - Dr. Amy Bass)

Giau Nguyen—"Applications of Electrical Conductivity Measurements" (Mentor - Dr. Tom Venanzi)

Giau Nguyen—"The Quick Fix" (Mentor - Dr. Michael Quinn)

Tung Nguyen—"Science and Religion" (Mentor - Dr. Elizabeth Brinkmann)

Ruth Santiago—"When Reality Becomes Virtual: The Sims 2" (Mentor: Dr. Michael Quinn)

Christina Simpson—"The Invisible Orgasm: Pornography and Female Viewers" (Mentor: Dr. Roblyn Rawlins)

Elizabeth Skrip—"Nature Portrayed Through the Evolution of Art" (Mentors - Dr. Susan Canning and Emily Stord)

Megan Skrip—"Worms in the Woods: The Effects of Exotic Earthworms on Forest Leaf Litter and Its Inhabitants" (Mentor - Dr. Faith Kostel-Hughes)

Kathryn Tyranski—"The Connection Between Growing Up Female and Voting" (Mentor - Dr. Roblyn Rawlins)

Emily Williams—"Documenting Gazes: An Investigation Through Film" (Mentor: Dr. Susan Canning)

NE-NCHC REFLECTIONS...CONTINUED

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glinting, unfathomably expensive interiors. The casinos' goals were both subtle and obvious—to keep the daylight out, the people in, and the money flowing. Yet, this incredible development sits at the knees of the Atlantic Ocean, whose impressive waves are continually eroding the beachfront.

Student presentations also gave me much food for thought, as I learned of the economical and environmental intersections affecting oil drilling in Nigeria and preservation of Russia's largest lake. I greatly enjoyed presenting my own poster as well, sharing what I had learned about invasive earthworms with students and professors who, like me, had never known that such a seemingly humble animal could be so influential. There is always more than meets the eye. New Jersey, case in point.

Emily Williams

Because I grew up in New Jersey, you can imagine how enthusiastic I was at the prospect of taking part in an Honors Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In other words, initially I was not particularly eager about this trip primarily because of its location and lack of 'exoticism' and shift from what I am accustomed to. Rather stubbornly, before departing with fellow Honors students in tow as I drove the car, I was convinced that South Jersey had nothing to offer that would grab my attention and allure my interest. I admit, I was wrong. In fact, New Jersey revealed herself to me in ways I had not thought my home state capable of doing and it was thanks to the 'Place as Text' activity on the opening day of the conference that my eyes began to open to the beauty, history and complexity that some places in New Jersey withhold. In 'Place as Text' each student is

sent off with a small group of other students and professors upon a quest to observe, explore, and collect findings at a certain assigned place. My assigned place was the old resort town of Cape May situated at the southernmost tip of the state, along the ocean. I, along with Betsy Skrip and Dr. Bass, traveled throughout the town, admiring the ornate Victorian architecture of the many vacation homes and resort buildings, indulged in some delectable fudge that Cape May has a reputation for, and walked along the beach in some rather rough and rainy weather conditions. I noticed a tension, especially at Cape May but also in Atlantic City, between the old and the new, the preservation of the past yet the progression of the present and the future. It became increasingly clear how devastating is the loss the precious landscape of New Jersey's natural environment in observing the excessive commercial development that has taken over many parts of the state.

It was especially fun to have the opportunity to hang out with the other Honors students on the trip with whom I don't usually hang out with, though I may know them from campus. I am glad that as a senior I partook in a conference before I graduate, and took the some time to connect with underclassmen who I know will continue to make the Honors Program proud.

Sam Young

The Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Atlantic City was an experience that was rewarding and eye opening. Honors conferences provide an interactive dialogue between investigative and curious students to confer on a common theme, which was, in this case, "Landscapes of Change." The conference was held in the Clarion Hotel, but on the first day,

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PROFESSOR

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not everyone agreed with, but agreed to live with: *Frankenstein*, first brought to the table by Samantha Young. They are, right this very minute, finishing their collective letter to the freshmen letting them know why. They worked hard – harder than I think they thought they would when they originally took on this mission to merely read.

So: read *Frankenstein* this summer. Everyone's going to be doing it.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

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freshwomen explaining why they promoted the book they chose. Based on these letters, the class was able to select a novel for next year's freshmen- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Although the process was long, and the disagreements numerous, the class was finally able to join together to compose a letter for the incoming honors students. Through the process of selecting the text, we were given an opportunity to consider the importance of our selection to the new students. We also realized the variety of things the Honors Program provides for its students. Our concerns were not simply what would be fun to read, but what would provide self-realization and understanding. By understanding the needs of the incoming students, we came to realize what needs of our own had been fulfilled by the Program. Indeed, the new format for Senior Symposium is effective in promoting intellectual debate and argument while providing seniors a chance to reflect on their experiences in the Honors Program since their first year.



Above: Members of the Senior Symposium Class.

Photo: A. Bass

NE-NCHC REFLECTION

Continued from Page 21

attendees were bused to the various sights of the area for the "Place as Text" program. After being ushered into the conference by NE-NCHC President, Dr. Richard England, the chair of the conference, some of us were whisked to historic Basto Village. This sight is a preserved neighborhood straight out of the 1800s. The buildings, the pathways and the machinery are all original pieces from this era. We left Basto to arrive in Smithville, a consumer village with themes concerning the 19th century community juxtaposed with the capitalist culture of modern day America. The incredible difference between these two historic sites spoke to the very theme of the conference, Landscapes of Change. The events attended, as well as the taste of the actual city, provided material for a true investigation into the impact of capitalism on American culture. Atlantic City is, in itself, an area that promotes the objectification of women and the endurance of a commodity-based culture. This theme was made even more relevant through the various displays and discussions by conference participants.

